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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/460,944 12/14/99 SITNIK

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EXAMINER

BUI, K

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2711

4

DATE MAILED:

07/06/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/460,944

Applicant(s)
Sitnik

Examiner
"Krista" Kleu-Oanh Bui

Group Art Unit
2711



- ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____
- ☐ This action is **FINAL**.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 35 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claim

- ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

- ☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- ☐ All ☐ Some* ☒ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
- ☐ received.
- ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____
- ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

- ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 2
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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DETAILED ACTION

Abstract

1. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 250 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 250 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

Regarding the Abstract, it should be in narrative form and *generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 250 words* as stated. Correction is required.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371© of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

3. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hwang (U.S. Patent No. 6,049,823).

Regarding claims 1 and 7, Hwang teaches a television system comprising: a connection configured to be operatively coupled to a connection of an other television (Figs. 1a-1d); and a processor, i.e., a channel processor, configured to provide query information to the other television (Figs. 1a-1d/item 1) and configured to provide queried information in response to a query request from the other television, i.e., a user can order any requested on-demand services from any television and can interact with other televisions in the group (see col. 1/lines 55-65).

As for claims 2-3 and 8, in view of claim 1 above, Hwang disclose “wherein said connection is configured to provide said query and queried information to the other television”, i.e., using the internal link among the workgroup (col. 5/lines 34-38) and “wherein said processor is configured to receive query compliance status information identifying the query compliance status of the other television” (see col. 17/lines 35-43).

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As for claims 4 and 9, Hwang suggests that processor is configured to receive identifying information, i.e., a request from a user with identifying information (Fig. 2 and col. 13/lines 19-32), from a user prior to enabling the user to do at least one of set and change query compliance status information (col. 10/lines 6-9).

As for claims 5 and 10, the step of “wherein said processor is configured to provide any queried information to the other television that does not violate the query compliance status of the other television” is taught by Hwang as Hwang suggests that the command session can be terminated or interrupted if some query compliance status is violated or improperly done (see col. 14/lines 44-61).

As for claims 6 and 11, Hwang teaches the connection is one of an in-home network connection and an Internet connection, i.e., a groups of households connected to each other for receiving interactive TV broadcasting signals and using LAN for accessing the Internet (remote office) as well (Figs. 8-10 and col. 13/lines 19-48).

Regarding claims 12-14 and 16-18, these method claims are rejected for the reasons given with respect to the system claims of 1-11 as already discussed above.

As for claim 15, Hwang further suggests “wherein said identifying is performed by a mediator that is separate from each of said plurality of televisions”, i.e., a control center which oversees the operation and is separated from each of the plurality of televisions (see Figs. 3a-3b).

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Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Grossman et al. (U.S. Patent No.5,862,486) disclose a video display and control of multiple graphical interfaces.

Straorn et al. (U.S. Patent No.5,933,140) disclose a child window containing context based help and a miniaturized web page.

Osakabe et al. (U.S. Patent No.5,666,363) disclose a method for transmission, reception , communication, and bidirectional bus system.

Miyagawa et al. (U.S. Patent No.4,989,081) disclose a home-bus-information system.

Osakabe et al. (U.S. Patent No.5,402,419) disclose a communication system using a bi-directional bus, comprises a plurality of devices.

5. **Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 308-6306 or (703) 308-6296, (for formal communications intended for entry)

Or:

(703) 308-5399, (for informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT").

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Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Krista Kieu-Oanh Bui whose telephone number is (703) 305-0095. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday (1st week of a bi-week) and Monday-Friday (2nd week of a bi-week) from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Faile, can be reached on (703) 305-4380.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

Krista Bui
Art Unit 2711
June 22, 2000


ANDREW I. FAILE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
GROUP 2700